



HR0205

LRB097 11277 GRL 53296 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Frank  
4 Woodruff Buckles, the longest surviving United States veteran  
5 of World War I, who passed away on February 27, 2011, at the  
6 age of 110; and

7           WHEREAS, Frank Buckles was born on February 1, 1901; at the  
8 age of 16, he witnessed the European theatre of World War I,  
9 serving as a Corporal in the United States Army; as an  
10 ambulance driver in France and Germany, he evacuated wounded  
11 soldiers from the horrific battlefield; and

12           WHEREAS, After World War I, Frank Buckles traveled widely,  
13 working for steamship companies; he was on business in Manila  
14 when the Philippines were occupied after the attack on Pearl  
15 Harbor in December of 1941; he was imprisoned by occupying  
16 forces and lost more than 50 pounds before being liberated by  
17 an American airborne unit in February of 1945; and

18           WHEREAS, For his service during World War I, Frank Buckles  
19 received the World War I Victory Medal and qualified for four  
20 Overseas Service Bars; in 1941, he retroactively qualified for  
21 the Army of Occupation of Germany Medal due to his post-war  
22 service in Europe in 1919; in 1999, Buckles was further honored

1 by the French Government and was awarded France's Legion  
2 d'Honneur; and

3 WHEREAS, Frank Buckles was laid to rest with full military  
4 honors at Arlington National Cemetery; his funeral was attended  
5 by President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden; and

6 WHEREAS, Frank Buckles represents the generation of  
7 Americans that served and sacrificed during World War I, "The  
8 World to End All Wars", and was the last veteran among the more  
9 than 4.7 million Americans who had served in the armed forces  
10 of the Allied nations from April 6, 1917, when the United  
11 States entered World War I, to November 11, 1918, the date of  
12 the armistice; and

13 WHEREAS, 116,516 Americans serving in the armed forces gave  
14 their lives during World War I; therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
16 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
17 we mourn, along with his family, friends, and the rest of a  
18 grateful nation, the passing of Frank Woodruff Buckles, and  
19 honor the lives of all who served during World War I; and be it  
20 further

21 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be

1 presented to Frank Woodruff Buckles' daughter, Susannah  
2 Flanagan, as a symbol of our sincere sympathy and respect.